

**11—61.3(8A) Informal settlement.** The director or an appellant may request that an informal conference be held to determine if a dispute can be resolved in a manner agreeable to all parties prior to a contested case hearing. If the director and the appellant agree to negotiate a settlement, the various points of the proposed settlement shall be included in a written statement of facts. Negotiations for a settlement shall be completed at least five workdays prior to the date of the contested case hearing, unless additional time is agreed to by the director, the appellant and the public employment relations board, the department of inspections and appeals, or the classification appeal committee, as applicable. The settlement shall be binding when approved and signed by both the director and the appellant.